

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 194673
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /109 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
-----062246 170701Z /10

R 162245Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 194673

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 194673

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 16

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 16, 1977. FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT AT TODAY'S BRIEFING WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. YOU HAVE HAD SOME MORE TIME, NOW, TO DIGEST THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST ISRAELI ACTIONS ON THE WEST BANK. DO YOU HAVE ANY JUDGMENT YET AS TO HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE PEACE PROCESS?

A. WELL, TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER THAT I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT. WE ARE LOOKING VERY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 194673

CLOSELY AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF IT. WE ARE IN FACT DISCUSSING IT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AT THE LEVEL OF OUR AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL. BUT WE ARE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO CATEGORIZE OR INTERPRET THE DECISION-- WHICH WAS A DECISION AS I RECALL, IN PRINCIPLE, WHICH TO THE BEST WE CAN MAKE OUT, HAS NOT BEEN FULLY FLUSHED OUT INTO A PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE PUT INTO PRACTICE.

Q. IS THIS PART OF A NEW MORATORIUM ON "NO COMMENTING",

OR --

A. NO, I WOULDN'T CATEGORIZE IT THAT WAY AT ALL. WE SIMPLY ARE, I THINK TO REPEAT MYSELF, LOOKING AT IT MORE CLOSELY AND TRYING TO GET A CLOSER INTERPRETATION FROM THE ISRAELIS OF WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN A FAIRLY BROAD AND GENERAL WAY.

Q. WAS THE WEST BANK NEW POLICY DISCUSSED YESTERDAY BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR?

A. NO, IT WAS NOT.

Q. IT WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED?

A. LET ME BE TOTALLY CANDID: THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF IT. THERE WAS A PASSING REFERENCE WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE

A DISCUSSION.

Q. WAS AMBASSADOR LEWIS ASKED TO T FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POLICY TODAY? I MEAN IN OTHER WORDS HE IS TALKING TO THEM TODAY BUT HE DID NOT DO SO YESTERDAY. IS THAT IT?

A. WHAT I HAVE IS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING IT WITH THEM. NOW AS TO WHAT DAY -- YESTERDAY OR TODAY --
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 194673

Q. WELL THIS WAS AN ANSWER YESTERDAY, SAYING THAT YOU HAD NOT DISCUSSED IT WITH THEM.

A. WELL YES, THAT WAS TRUE. AND SO I AM ASSUMING FROM THIS THAT THAT DISCUSSION EITHER -- WELL I THINK IT IS UNDER WAY TODAY.

Q. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND OUT IN THIS DISCUSSION?

A. WELL, WHAT WE HAVE IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT SOMETHING. IT IS NOT ALL THAT SPECIFIC ON A NUMBER OF ITS APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PRESS REPORTS OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT BY MR. BEGIN HIMSELF. THERE IS GOING TO BE A DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT AND THERE MAY BE FAR MORE ARTICULATION ON WHAT IS BEING SAID IN THAT AND WE MAY GET MORE SPECIFICALLY INTO THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF THAT GOVERNMENT. THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.

Q. WELL, IS THAT FAIR TO SAY THAT WHAT YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT IS WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS A STEP TOWARDS

ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY?

A. WELL WE ARE CERTAINLY INTERESTED IN WHATEVER T GOVERNMENT TELLS US ARE THE IMPLICATIONS AND THE INTENT OF THIS MOVE.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES IN CONTACT WITH OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE TO TRY TO PRESSURE THEM NOT TO PUSH FOR A REVISION OF 242 ALONG THE LINES THAT THE EUROPEAN PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING --
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 194673

A. I THINK WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION VLRY CLEAR, AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPEAT IT, ON THE QUESTION OF 242.

Q. THAT'S WHAT I WANTED.

A. YES, BUT I MEAN I WOULD JUST ANSWER IT THIS WAY: THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO A REVISION OF 242 AND THAT WE MAKE THAT CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED. AND I THINK THAT SUGGESTIONS OF PRESSURE, OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT REALLY ISN'T WHAT IS CALLED INTO QUESTION. WE STAND ON THAT POSITION.

Q. HAVE ANY INDIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE PLO TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE SECRETARY'S RETURN FROM THE MIDDLE EAST ON THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION OF 242?

A. IF BY "INDIRECT CONTACTS" YOU MEAN -- BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY KIND OF CONTACTS WE HAVE HAD -- HAVE WE HEARD FROM ARAB SOURCES ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING SPECIFIC OR GENERAL RELAYED -- ON THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN MUCH INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED OTHER THAN SOME OF THE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS I HAVE SEEN FROM SPOKESMEN FOR THE PLO SINCE WE RETURNED.

Q. ON ANOTHER THING -- I GUESS A RELATED MATTER. DO YOU STILL STAND ON THE, I GUESS, CHARACTERIZATION AS "FICTION" OR "FICTITIOUS" THAT THERE WAS ANY MEETING BETWEEN HERMANN EILTS AND THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE --

A. ABSOLUTELY. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE AND TOTAL FALSEHOOD -- OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY S,AFF.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION IF A RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 194673

WOULD ALMOST REPEAT EVERYTHING THAT THERE IS IN 242, AND ADD WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN PREACHING--THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE?

A. I THINK THAT THIS IS A HIGHLY SPECULATIVE KIND OF QUESTION. I THINK THE ONLY THING I CAN REPEAT ON THIS IS THAT ANY ALTERATION IN THE LANGUAGE OF 242 WOULD BRING OUR OPPOSITION.

Q. PROBABLY A NEW RESOLUTION.

A. YES, I KNOW THAT --

Q. RECOMMEND AN ENTIRELY NEW RESOLUTION --

A. I KNOW THAT, AND INsofar AS OTHER CONFIGURATIONS ARE CONCERNED, OR ANY DISCUSSION OF THAT -- I SIMPLY DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE, BECAUSE THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF VARIATIONS ON THAT THEME.

WHAT IS BASIC TO WHAT I AM SAYING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THAT WHICH IS CENTRAL, WHICH-IS THE LANGUAGE OF 242 AS IT STANDS--IS IN OUR VIEW SOMETHING WHICH CAN'T BE TAMPERED WITH.

Q. COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT TO SAY WHETHER IT'S THE UNITED STATES POSITION THAT OPENING UP THIS SUBJECT FOR A REVISION WOULD BE CONTRARY TO U.S. POLICY?

A. WE THINK THAT 242 HAS BEEN A MATTER CAREFULLY WROUGHT, WHICH HAS BEEN THE BASIS FOR MOST OF THE DISCUSSION TOWARD THE ATTEMPT TO GET AT A SETTLEMENT; AND THAT TO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 194673

TRY TO UNRAVEL THAT WOULD BE AN ACT WHICH WOULD NEEDLESSLY COMPLICATE THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. DO YOU SEE BEGIN'S TRIP TO ROMANIA AS SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT BODE WELL?

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF COMMENT ON THAT. THIS IS THE MATTER OF THE HEAD OF ONE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT GOING TO VISIT ANOTHER ONE. I DON'T HAVE --

Q. ON 242 AGAIN JUST TO GET ONE THING STRAIGHT: YOU TALKED ABOUT UNRAVELLING THAT WOULD NEEDLESSLY COMPLICATE THE PROCESS. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT 242 STANDING ON ITS OWN. RIGHT?

A. OBVIOUSLY --

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, ANY KIND OF TAMPERING WITH THE RESOLUTION AS IT EXISTS TODAY.

A. THAT'S CORRECT, THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. THE QUESTION WAS RAISED HERE AS TO WHETHER THE RESOLUTION, AS IT EXISTS TODAY, COULD BE KEPT IN ITS ENTIRETY -- AND THEN ADDED ONTO. WOULD THAT BE TAMHERING WITH IT, AS WELL?

A. I THINK THAT THE FURTHEST I CAN GO ON THIS IS TO REPEAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID DOWN IN PLAINS WHENEVER IT WAS, A WEEK AGO, WHICH WAS THAT WE SUPPORT 242--THAT IF FOR INSTANCE THE PLO WERE TO SAY, O.K., WE ACCEPT 242, BUT WE BELIEVE -- WE STATE FOR OURSELVES THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS IS MORE THAN A REFUGEE PROBLEM -- THAT THAT WOULD, WE BELIEVE, OPEN THE WAY FOR US ,O TALK TO THEM. THAT IS, IT'S THE ONLY THING WE ARE REALLY TALKING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 194673

ABOUT.

Q. I AM JUST ASKING WHETHER, IF THERE WERE A FORMAL MOVE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ADD TO 242 --

A. I THINK BASICALLY OUR POSITION ON THIS WOULD BE THAT WE THINK 242 AS IT STANDS, IS THE WAY IT SHOULD STAND--

Q. WITHOUT ADDITION.

A. -- AND THAT WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY CHANGE OR AMENDMENT IN THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION.

Q. WITH A VIEW TOWARDS CREATING A NEW RESOLUTION?

A. WELL I WOULD SAY BASICALLY THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO TRYING TO REMOVE OR ALTER WHAT HAS BEEN THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT LOMES DOWN SPECIFICALLY TO SAYING "ALTERING OR AMENDING 242" WHICH I THINK ENCOMPASSES YOUR QUESTION.

Q. NO, I'M NOT SURE BECAUSE YOU COULD -- THERE REALLY ARE VERY FEW PRECEDENTS, IF ANY, FOR TAKING A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND AMENDING IT.

A. YES.

Q. YOU CAN COME UP WITH A NEW RESOLUTION, IF YOU LIKE.

A. YES.

Q. SO I AM REALLY ADDRESSING THE OTHER QUESTION. WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 194673

WOULD BE THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON A NEW RESOLUTION THAT EMBRACES ALL OF 242 BUT ADDS THE QUESTION OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND? WHAT THEN BECOMES THE AMERICAN POSITION?

A. I BELIEVE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ALTER THIS FUNDAMENTALLY, OR TO DO WHAT YOU ARE SUGGESTING, IS SOMETHING THAT WE WOULD OPPOSE.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT THIS AFTERNOON?

A. THE DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON WITH SECRETARY VANCE IS GOING TO BE ONE ON WHICH THERE MAY BE A READOUT

AFTERWARD. I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE WHOLE RANGE OF THE ISSUES. BUT CLEARLY, THE MAJOR ONES WILL BE PANAMA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

2. QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING, AUGUST 15:

Q. WAS THERE ANY DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS ON THE ISRAELI DECISION ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY (AUGUST 14) CONCERNING THE WEST BANK?

A. NO.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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